

WELCOME WEDDING



GUIDE



HI FRIEND

Thanks so much for being here! I created this guide for you to know me more, understand the expectations of being your photographer, and most importantly help you prepare for your wedding day!

With this guide you can explore all the tips and tricks needed to help you for your wedding day. Everything from flatlay list, my advice, sample timelines, and vendor recommendations. It's all included here!

I'm excited to get started on this journey with you! Here's to creating dreamy memories that you can relive over and over again!

Cheers,
Abigail

Meet Abigail!

Hey! I'm Abigail. I'm a born and raised Californian serving San Diego, Temecula and beyond.

My photography journey started at an early age growing up around family point and shoots and camcorders. I have always been fascinated with the idea of documenting life's most precious moments.

Being a lover of love I found myself so enthralled with wedding days. From seeing family and friends travel from all corners of the world to be there, to the emotional hugs of first looks, to the celebration of two families coming together and celebrating a new chapter. I love my job more and more everyday knowing I am gifting moments that will last generations.



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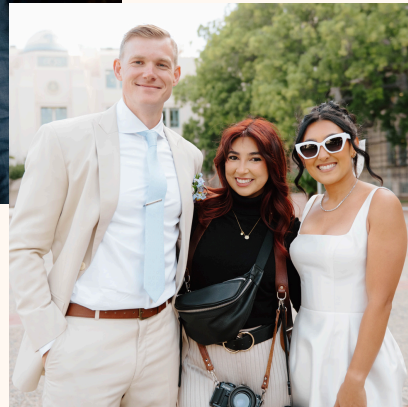
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PRE-WEDDING COMMUNICATION

I'm beyond excited to be part of your wedding day! It's official — you're getting married, and I'll be there to document your story. So much time, energy, and intention go into creating such a meaningful day, and I'm here to guide you every step of the way. I'm always just a text, call, or email away, and I'll check in as your wedding day approaches to make sure we're aligned.

About 2–3 months before your wedding, I'll send over my Wedding Day Questionnaire (linked below if you'd like to get a head start). This form gathers everything I'll need for your wedding day, and once it's submitted, we'll schedule a call to review it and answer any remaining questions.

<https://www.abigailalexisphotographs.com/client-questionnaire>



FLAT LAY

- His & Her Rings
- Ring Boxes
- His & Her Vow Books
- Wedding Stationary
- Veil
- Heels
- Earrings
- Bracelet
- Necklace
- Hair accessories
- Bouquet & Extra Florals
- Perfume \ Cologne
- Garter
- Cufflinks
- Tie \ Bow Tie
- Watch
- Wax Seal
- Jewelry Tray
- Family Heirlooms / Sentimental Items

Flatlays capture the small, intricate details that reflect the aesthetic of your wedding day. You're welcome to provide as many or as few details as you'd like. When I arrive at the venue, I'll collect them, so it's helpful to have everything set aside in a box for easy access and return. Having details ready upon arrival keeps the timeline running smoothly and avoids delays.



TIPS

1. Bring a wooden hanger with a moveable hook to hang your wedding dress for photos
2. Steam your wedding dress and veil if needed before I arrive
3. Clean the insoles of your heels for a spotless look
4. Most Important tip, WEAR YOUR WEDDING RINGS



GETTING READY

It's the morning of your wedding day, you're getting ready with friends and family all around. Here's my advice as you begin the start of your wedding day.

- Soak it in - Your wedding day is going to go by so fast. Slow down, take deep breaths and feel the moment. Its cheesy to say, I know, but giving yourself small reminders to enjoy each moment will help so much.



Keep a tidy space - Have a designated space for all the bags, water bottles, and clutter. A clean space allows the photos to look more intentional and less chaotic.



Let the natural light in - I highly suggest to stay near natural light and open areas. The lighting will flatter your skin much more and gives the photos a dreamy feel.

FIRST LOOK vs. FIRST TOUCH

Let's talk about first looks and first touch. Both are incredibly meaningful, but one may be a better fit for your wedding day.

First Look

- What it is: Seeing each other for the first time before the ceremony in a private, emotional moment.
- What it looks like: I'll place one partner facing away in a quiet location while the other approaches and gets their attention in a natural way. You'll then share a few uninterrupted moments together in your wedding attire.
- Why you'll love it: It helps calm nerves and gives you more time together on your wedding day.
- Photography benefit: Genuine emotion, flexibility to shoot from multiple angles, and a more relaxed timeline.



First Touch

- What it is: Holding hands or exchanging letters without seeing each other, often around a door, wall, or corner.
- What it looks like: You'll stand facing away or back-to-back, reaching out to hold hands, pray together, or read letters in a quiet, private moment.
- Why you'll love it: It's perfect if you want to stay traditional while still sharing an intimate moment before the ceremony. A first touch can be deeply emotional or spiritual and helps calm nerves.
- Photography benefit: Intimate, meaningful images that highlight hands, emotion, and anticipation.



CEREMONY

Your ceremony is one of the most emotional and meaningful parts of your wedding day, and with a few simple tips, you can help make the photos just as beautiful as the moment feels.

- Stay Centered at the Altar - Stand close together and centered during the ceremony. It helps your photos look balanced and polished. Avoid stepping too far apart or drifting off to the side (especially during vows!).





- Hold Hands or Stay Connected – holding hands, a hand on the back, a soft glance—capture emotional, meaningful moments without words.
- Be Present – Soak in the moment. Smile, cry, laugh—feel it all. The best ceremony photos come from couples who are emotionally engaged.
- Kiss a Little Longer – When it’s time for the kiss, hold it for 3–5 seconds, maybe go in for a second one if you’re feeling it. This allows for more time to capture THE iconic moment from different angles.

- Walk Slowly Down the Aisle (Both Times!) - Whether you're walking in or exiting as newlyweds, slow your pace, hold hands, smile, and look at each other or your guests. It helps to get those joyful, glowing photos without motion blur or missed expressions.
- Have an Unplugged Ceremony (If Possible) - Phones and iPads can block shots and distract. Ask guests to be fully present and let me capture the unforgettable moments. You can have your officiant make a sweet announcement or display a sign at the entrance.
- Tell Me About Your Traditions - If you're including something unique—cultural traditions, communion, a sand ceremony, etc.—make sure I know so I can be ready to capture it fully.



FAMILY



Family photos are some of the most meaningful images from your wedding day, capturing the people who raised you and have been with you every step of the way. These can include immediate family only or extend to grandparents and relatives. In my Wedding Day Questionnaire, you'll list family member names and desired photo combinations (examples below). Staying organized helps us move efficiently through family photos, starting with everyone together, then grandparents, and finishing with each side of the family.

Example:

- Bride & Groom with Bride's Parents
- Bride & Groom with All Grandparents
- Bride & Groom with the [Last Name]

TIP

1. Assign one or two bridal party members to collect family for portraits in case anyone runs off to cocktail hour too soon.

If traditional, posed family photos don't resonate with you, there are thoughtful alternatives that still result in meaningful images. Family photos can be spread throughout the day—immediate family before the ceremony (especially with a first look), and extended family after the ceremony or during cocktail hour—to keep things calm and efficient.

You can also plan a private family first look with parents or immediate family for an intimate, emotional moment and natural portraits before the day gets busy. For a more candid approach, a lounge area or styled backdrop allows family to rotate through for relaxed, documentary-style images. For intimate or destination weddings, family portraits can even be done the day before or after the wedding for a more laid-back experience.



WEDDING PARTY

Your wedding party is your closest people, there to support and celebrate you all day long. These photos highlight everyone's personality all while having a great time.

What's the best time for these?

Before Ceremony - Once you have done your first look we can gather the full group for some fun.

After Ceremony - If you are opting out of a first look, then we will save the group photos for after ceremony.





Expectations

I'll start off by guiding everyone into a traditional group photo. I'll keep things clean and formal, having just enough posing with elegance. Here's how I structure the different groups:

- Full wedding party
- Bride & bridesmaids
- Groom & groomsmen
- Bride with each individual bridesmaid
- Groom with each individual groomsmen
- Bride & groomsmen (optional)
- Groom & bridesmaids (optional)

After completing the traditional group photos, it's time to have some fun. Group hugs, laughter, cheering, and creative prompts will be incorporated to capture everyone's personality.



TIPS:

1. For a smooth group shot, let everyone know when and where ahead of time, make sure bouquets are in hand, ties are straightened, and boutonnieres are on.
2. Leave any personal belongings like phone, purse, wallet, apple watch, and sunglasses in the getting ready suites.
3. Keep water/drinks around hydration = happy wedding party
4. Encourage your wedding party to stay nearby during group photos to keep the flow efficient allowing more time to enjoy your day!

ROMANTICS

Romantics aka couples portraits has to be in my top 3 favorite moments to capture during a wedding day. These photos are always so dreamy and well, romantic! The two of you, get to have quality time and soak in the day and all its beauty!

What's the best time for these?

I highly recommend to separate your romantics throughout the day in two to four 10-15 min intervals. When you spread out your romantics, we get to capture different lightings, moods, and energy.

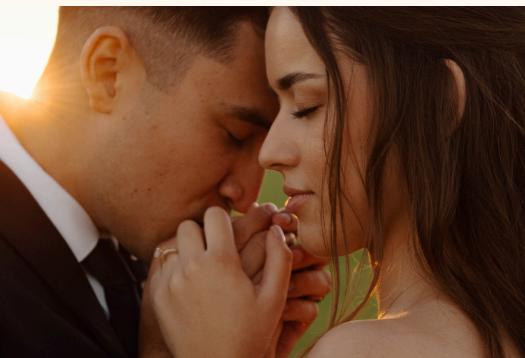


- First Look - If you are doing a first look this is a great opportunity for the first set of romantics. Hair and makeup are in prime perfection, suit and dress are crisp and clean, and anticipation is in the air. You get to have a private moment together before the day unfolds and I believe it's worth documenting!



- Post Ceremony - There's a beautiful just married glow after the ceremony that deserves attention. We get to sneak away from everyone for a few minutes and celebrate! It's also a perfect time to get your romantics if you didn't choose a first look.





- Golden Hour - the last 30-45 minutes before the sun sets is the most warm dreamy light from the whole day. If time allows I love spending a few minutes to grab those romantics. (I'll help you build a timeline that prioritizes golden hour.)



- Paparazzi Flash – If you are doing an outfit change then these romantics are a MUST! Take a short break from dancing, grab your cocktail and let's take some playful flash photos. Even if you don't have an outfit change, these romantics focus on the energetic playful vibes of the party!

Expectations

My shooting style blends editorial and documentary. Editorial captures magazine-worthy, elegant shots, while documentary focuses on candid, in-between moments that tell your story. This mix ensures you look and feel your best.

Romantic sessions give you built-in moments to connect and soak it all in. There's no pressure to do all four sessions—one great session is a win, and any additional sessions are a bonus.

HIS + HER PORTRAITS

His & Her portraits are a wedding day necessity. These are individual photos of you looking your absolute best in your wedding attire. These photos are taken during the getting ready process or after ceremony.

These individual portraits are more than just beautiful images—they're a reflection of the anticipation, joy, and presence you both carry into the next chapter. They don't take long, but they add so much depth to your gallery and help tell your story in a complete, intentional way



For Her

These portraits are soft, elegant, and full of emotion. Whether you're slipping into your gown, reading a letter, or simply taking a deep breath before walking down the aisle, I aim to capture the beauty of the moment and all the details you've so thoughtfully chosen—your dress, veil, florals, jewelry, and the glow that only comes on your wedding day. These images are timeless keepsakes that you'll treasure for a lifetime.



For Him

His portraits often feel confident, classic, and a bit cinematic. Whether it's tying the tie, buttoning the jacket, or having a quiet moment with his groomsmen, these images tell the story of calm before the excitement. We'll also take a few strong, clean portraits that feel like something straight out of a GQ spread—simple, refined, and full of character.



RECEPTION

Your reception is where the celebration truly begins—the nerves fade, the champagne flows, and you're surrounded by all your favorite people ready to dance the night away. I'll be there capturing all the joy, hugs, details, and big energy that make this part of the day unforgettable.

- Details Matter - If you've spent time curating your reception space—centerpieces, place cards, candles, or a statement installation—let's plan to photograph it before guests are seated. I'll coordinate with your planner or caterer to sneak in and capture everything while it's untouched and glowing.

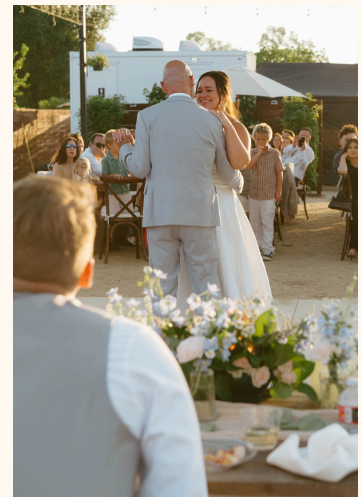


- Reception Lighting - Twinkle lights, candles, and uplighting bring such warmth to your photos. If you're investing in reception lighting, it's so worth it. Avoid harsh colored spotlights on faces—warm tones are always most flattering.



- Keep the Sweetheart Table clear - Water bottles, phones, purses—try to keep them off the head/sweetheart table so those beautiful wide shots stay clean. Bonus tip: add candles or greenery to elevate your table for photos that look like they came out of a styled shoot.

- Enjoy your first dances - Keep the lighting soft, and don't rush these moments. Whether it's your first dance, parent dances, or a fun surprise, this is a time for storytelling. I'll capture both the emotion and the reactions from your guests.



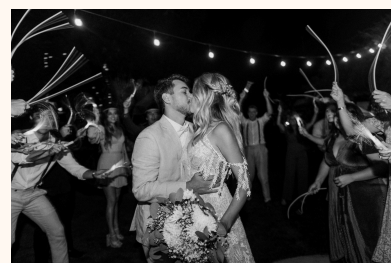
- Get on the Dance Floor - Once the party starts, I'll be right in the mix—capturing you and your guests laughing, spinning, and letting loose. If there are any surprises (like a choreographed dance, outfit change, or late-night snack cart), give me a heads up so I don't miss a beat! Don't forget to celebrate with each other, you're a married couple and you deserve a few fun dances together.
- Trust the Candid - Some of the best reception photos happen between the big moments—when your maid of honor wipes a happy tear, or grandma busts a move on the dance floor. You don't have to perform for the camera. Just be in the moment—and I'll do the rest.



GRAND EXIT

Your grand exit is the perfect exclamation point to your wedding day—whether it's a getaway car, sparkler tunnel, or a private last dance.

Choosing the Moment: You don't have to wait until the very end. For full guest energy or less stress, consider a staged exit earlier in the evening while the energy is high!



- Sparklers, Confetti, etc - Here are a few fun exit options:
 - Sparklers (long ones burn longer and are safer!)
 - Ribbon wands
 - Bubbles (my personal favorite)
 - Dried flower petals
 - LED balloons or glow sticks
 - Streamers or biodegradable confetti

Whatever you choose, make sure you have enough for everyone and a few extras just in case!

- Walk & Smile - When it's time to go, don't rush. Walk slowly, hold hands, kiss, dance your way through, and soak it in. This is one of the most cinematic moments of the day, and you deserve to enjoy it fully.

- Private Last Dance – If a grand exit isn't your style, consider ending the night with a private last dance while guests head outside or prepare for your send-off. It's an emotional, intimate moment and a sweet way to close out your day—just the two of you.



MOCK TIMELINES

Take a look through the different timelines. Ranging from 6-10 hours with or without a first look. Use these as a guide when creating your own timeline.

Six Hour Timeline

(with 1st look)

2pm - Arrival and Flatlay/Detail Photos

2:15pm - Getting Ready Photos

3pm - First Look

3:30pm - Wedding Party Group Photos

4:30pm - Ceremony

5pm - Cocktail Hour & Family Photos

5:45pm - Romantics

6:20pm - Grand Entrance & First Dance

6:30pm - Dinner

7pm - Toasts

7:15pm - Dance Party

8pm - Photo Coverage Ends

Six Hour Timeline

2pm - Arrival and Flatlay/Detail Photos

2:30pm - Getting Ready Photos

3pm - Wedding Party Photos (separate sides)

4:30pm - Ceremony

5pm - Cocktail Hour & Family photos & Wedding party photos

5:45pm - Romantics

6:15pm - Grand Entrance & First Dance

6:30pm - Dinner

7:15pm - Toasts

7:30pm - Dance Party

8pm - Photographer Coverage Complete

Eight Hour Timeline

(with 1st look)

- 1pm - Arrival and Flatlay/Detail Photos
- 1:30pm - Getting Ready Photos
- 3pm - First Look & Romantics
- 3:30pm - Wedding Party Group Photos
- 4:00pm - Family Photos
- 5pm - Ceremony
- 5:30pm - Cocktail Hour & Romantics
- 6pm - Join Cocktail Hour
- 6:30pm - Grand Entrance & First Dance
- 6:45pm - Dinner & Sunset Romantics
- 5:30pm - Toasts
- 6pm - Dance Party
- 8:45pm - Last Dance
- 8:50pm - Grand Exit
- 9pm - Photography Coverage Complete

Eight Hour Timeline

1pm - Arrival and Flatlay/Detail Photos

1:30pm - Getting Ready Photos

2:30pm - Wedding Party (separate groups)

4pm - Ceremony

4:30pm - Cocktail Hour & Family & Wedding Party

5:15pm - Romantics

6pm - Grand entrance & First Dance

6:15pm - Dinner

7pm - Toasts

8pm - Dance Party

8:45pm - Last Dance

8:50pm - Grand Exit

9pm - Photography Coverage Complete

Ten Hour Timeline

(with 1st look)

12pm - Arrival and Flatlay/Detail Photos

12:30pm - Getting Ready Photos

2pm - First Look & Romantics

2:30pm - Wedding Party Group Photos

3pm - Family Photos

4pm - Ceremony

3:15pm - Cocktail Hour & Romantics

3:45pm - Join Cocktail Hour

4:15pm - Grand entrance

4:20pm - First dance & Parent Dances

4:30pm - Dinner

5pm - Toasts

5:30pm - Cake Cut

5:40pm - Dance Party

6:30pm - Romantics

8:45pm - Last Dance

8:50pm - Grand Exit

10pm - Photography Coverage Complete

Ten Hour Timeline

12pm - Arrival and Flatlay/Detail Photos

1pm - Getting Ready Photos

4pm - Ceremony

5pm - Cocktail Hour & Family & Wedding party

5:30pm - Romantics

6pm - Grand entrance & First dance

6:20pm - Dinner

6:30pm - Romantics

7:30pm - Toasts

8pm - Cake Cut

8:10pm - Dance Party

9:45pm - Last Dance

9:50pm - Grand Exit

10pm - Photography Coverage Complete

VENDOR LISTS

Here is a list of some of my favorite vendors in the wedding industry. There's a wide variety of rates to help you put together your 200+ or 10 guests wedding.

Planners

@WeddingsWithKim
@ThomasOccasions

Florists

@NewCreationFloral
@MaggieMayFlowerz
@FromTheGroundUpDesigns_

DJs

@DjMikezee
@DJ_Natur3
@Pompeo.DJ

Bakers

@LemonBar.Bakery
@DolciBelleBakery
@TheMacaronShopSD

MUA's & Hair

@Eloya_Beauty
@HairAndMakepByHana
@BeatBySophie
@CaliforniaBridalStylist

Catering

@MyProFreshChef
@ChefJoann
@BitsAndBitesSD

PHOTO DELIVERY

Sneak Peeks

From the second I get home, all your beautiful images get uploaded onto my computer. I guarantee you will receive sneak peeks within 48-72 hours after your wedding. I pick my favorite images from each part of your wedding to tell a mini story. Normally these would be 20-50 edited images.

Final Gallery

Your final gallery is completed between 6-8 weeks. I compile the best of the best images to tell your full wedding story as if you were reliving it. Every part of the wedding is sectioned in a different folder for easy finding. Reminder your gallery allows you to have a favorites folder and you can print your most beloved photos to be sent to your home!

Wedding Album Timeline

Once your photo selections are finalized, your custom wedding album will be thoughtfully designed and crafted. The full process including design, up to two rounds of revisions, printing, and delivery typically takes 10-12 weeks. Album design begins once selections are submitted and final approval is received. Production timelines may vary slightly depending on response time and lab schedules.

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